



THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Founded in 1931

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FEBRUARY MEETING: ROC, The Eclipse 2024, JIM PORTER, K2NAX

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Porter worked as an aerospace engineer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA and Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. Now retired, he is a Solar System Ambassador for NASA and makes frequent presentations in our area to schools and the public. Jim is also a radio ham and a member of RARA so I am very excited that he will be presenting to us at our February meeting.

By now I am sure most of you are aware of the big event coming our way, a total eclipse of the sun on April 8th 2024 and here in Rochester we are right on the track of totality, i.e this is one of the best places to be to observe the eclipse.

Jim will explain how an eclipse occurs, what to expect, how to observe it safely and some history about previous eclipse events. He will also touch on how this is of relevance to amateur radio, as we know we depend on the sun's effect on the upper atmosphere to give us long distance propagation. There are some HamSci events tied around the eclipse which any of us can join if we wish to find out how the eclipse affects that.

To observe an eclipse safely, certified eclipse glasses are essential and Jim will have some of these to give out at the meeting.

You can join us online or in person. If you have been mostly online to our meetings recently consider joining us in person if you are not too far away. Enjoy the coffee and donuts, and especially the camaraderie of other members.

The February meeting is on Wednesday February 7th 2024, 7:00PM at the Boy Scouts Headquarters , 2320 Brighton Henrietta Townline Road, Rochester, New York 14623. To attend online please register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5293521103168925269>

Just a reminder, take a look around your radio room. Is there anything you no longer need which you would be happy to give to a new home? If so, please bring it for our 'Free to New Home Table', but make sure you take it home with you if nobody claims it. If you like old radio books make sure to check out the table this month!



BOARDZ BUZZ

SCOTT THEIS, W2LW, PRESIDENT

First off, I want to apologize for not being at many meetings as of late. I have had to grapple with a number of significant life challenges and changes in the past year. The months since September have been particularly arduous and difficult. Second, I want to thank Tim Barrett, K9VB, for filling in and for all the friends that have been supportive. I am hoping for better fortunes this year, albeit on my own.

2024 promises to be a busy year for the club. We will be enjoying Winterfest shortly at a new venue which I am sure is discussed later in this issue. We are still in the process of searching for a hamfest location. We should be holding the hamfest during the same first weekend in June.

On the education and operating side, we are planning for two outdoor events in the spring for GOTA and POTA. To be different, one will be on a Sunday due to site availability. The comments from last year's events were quite favorable, and it is always good to get out in the field and get on the air. If you have any ideas or wants, please contact Karl Heinz, K5KHK, at education@rochesterham.org.

We are also planning at least one RARA Academy in the late winter/spring, perhaps two.

Public service has a full plate with something nice to worry about: a scheduling conflict. With these new events, it was bound to happen! The Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta and Wilmot Breakaway Ride are scheduled on the same day in September. If you have thoughts about participating, now would be a good time to raise your hand. We have a lot of skilled members as well as new members who might want to work on their skills.

In the same vein, as many of you know, we have been working on expanding the inventory of club-provided equipment for public service events. We did purchase some new mobile antennas but had to return them for poor performance. Many of the newly donated/loaned event vehicles employ aluminum and plastic body panels, resulting in both mounting and ground plane issues. If you have thoughts, experience, or ideas, please reach out to Mike Moore, KC2NM, at publicservice@rochesterham.org.

We also have an opening for ILLW coordinator. I know I have pitched this as a great event, and, well, it is a great event. If I had the time, I might grab this one for myself, but I have my hands full. If you would like to jump in, please let me know at president@rochestham.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY FEB 7, 2024 - RARA Meeting In Person and On-Line
7:00 PM - AT THIS LINK <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5293521103168925269>

THURSDAY FEB 8, 2024 - RARA Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM - ONLINE
Email request for link to secretary@rochesterham.org

Saturday Feb 17, 2024 - RARA "Winterfest"
10:00 AM Set up if you wish to help, 11:00 AM Event begins
Bushman Cabin at Veterans Memorial Park, Henrietta

Sunday April 21, 2024 - RARA "Parks on the Air (POTA) Academy"
11:00 AM Roberts Cabin in Henrietta's Veterans Memorial Park

Saturday May 4, 2024 - Operating Event for New(ish) Hams
10:00 AM Set up, 11:00 AM Event begins
Pathfinder Shelter in Black Creek Park in Chili

Saturday Jun 8, 2024 - Finger Lakes Tour de Cure

RARA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Our membership count at the end of our membership year on Sept 30th was 603. We are gradually moving back upwards after the 2023 memberships lapsed. We are currently (in mid January) at 383 members. Now is the time to renew if you have not already done so and are not a life member! Thanks to all who have already renewed.

If your membership has lapsed, please renew your membership!

You can join or renew your membership [here](#).

There are many membership benefits, here are just some of them:

- Only members can attend the RARA Annual Auction
- Free admission to the RARA Hamfest
- Access to license classes and discounts for license manuals
- Annual events such as the Picnic and Winterfest
- Membership points for contributing to club events
- Supporting an Organization that you value!

Being a member is also important, as your dues and a healthy membership count contribute to many RARA activities such as Rag subscription, monthly meetings, RARA Academy sessions Elmer's Corner, [groups.io](#) mailing list, Facebook page, etc. Attracting good speakers is greatly helped when we can point to the size of our club, one of the largest ARRL affiliated clubs by the way.



To remind you all, the software package we use to manage membership is very old and missing features that we would like to see. One of its limitations is that it stores in plain text the access code you use to get to your information from our website. That means the support team (both of us!) can see the code, so don't use your secret password or confidential information.

I'd also like to give a warm welcome to the following new members who joined the club in the past month:

Erik Beniamino	Jonathan Oliveras
Steven Benton, WB2VMR	Richard Revera
Michael Chwojdak, N2MLC	Lee Rust
Robert Colon	Fred Schoenfeld
Richard Conley, KE2CFF	Kevin Schoenfeld
Bruce Hastings	Brian Shea
James Horn	Brent Skinner
Sandy Horn	Robert Snyder
Jean-Pierre Moreau	Matthew Stryker, KB2EVU
John Niger	

Remember to look out for new members at RARA events and make sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to the club!

JOIN US AT THE RARA WINTERFEST!

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Our annual Winterfest is coming up and is on Saturday February 17th. This year we are at a new location, the Bushman Cabin at Veterans Memorial Park in Henrietta. We start set up at 10 AM ready to get going around 11 AM. It's a great location, the cabin is heated and warm, and there is plenty of space for antennas.

As usual we will have door prizes and lots of food. If you can, please bring a crockpot of something warm, we will award a prize for the best contribution! We are also inviting everyone to bring a desert to share. Even if you don't have an opportunity to make something please come along anyway, the more the merrier. RARA will provide soft drinks, some nibbles and all the cups, plates, napkins and silverware needed.

We will have the club radio set up but feel free to bring your own gear. And if you are a newly licensed radio amateur this is a great time to meet other hams and to get on the air yourself.

If you would like to help with setup then arrive around 10 AM. Otherwise we look forward to seeing you at 11 AM for food, friends and amateur radio!





EDUCATION

Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, Education Coordinator

RARA LICENSE COURSES

Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, License Class Coordinator

License Classes

Our three license classes are up and running. If you missed this round and don't want to jump in three or four weeks into the ten week schedule, please let us know that you are interested and we will put you on the list for the next sessions.

New General Question Pool

Since July 1st, all General license exams are now using the new question pool, which means that you need the 10th edition of the ARRL License Manual to study for the test. Make sure you have the correct edition. Even though this book is almost brand new, it already is out of date – the FCC changed the data rate limitations on the HF bands to a bandwidth restriction. In general, you can find the questions in all three question pools that have been withdrawn listed on this page: <http://www.arrl.org/withdrawn-questions>.

License Manuals

The current editions of the Technician and General license manuals are available to our members at a discount for \$25. At this discount, we unfortunately cannot deliver, and you would have to pick up the manual. If you are interested, please send an email to education@rochesterham.org

The Amateur Extra license manual will expire at the end of June 2024, because of that, we do not want to keep any stock that we might not be able to sell, but we can order a book for you for the same price as our other license manuals.

I usually have some license manuals with me at official RARA events (e.g. the monthly meetings).

OPERATING EVENT FOR NEW(ISH) HAMS

Our annual operating event for New(ish) Hams is coming up on May 4th 2024. We are looking for volunteers to teach and present whatever niche in ham radio is keeping them interested and busy. If you are willing to show some new hams the one thing in ham radio they really need to know about, please let us know.

The event will be held at the Pathfinder Shelter in Black Creek Park in Chili. We will start setting up at 10am, the actual event starts at 11am and runs until we run out of steam (which is usually around 3 or 4pm).

Here are some topic areas I would like to present: CW, HF, VHF/UHF, direction finding, working satellites, building antennas, soldering, APRS, digital modes, and more. If you can come up with something that is not on the list yet, please consider demonstrating that aspect of our hobby. Keep in mind that oftentimes our new hams have not yet been on the air yet, so allowing them to make their first contact at our event is important. I think we all remember how frightening it was the first time we pushed that PTT button or that CW key to actually transmit. Let's help our newest members with that step.

RARA ACADEMY

We are working on a follow-up to our first RARA Academy about circuit simulation with LTSpice. I will post more information as soon as it is available.

If you have anything you would like to teach in a RARA Academy, please let us know. Even if it's something shorter, we can combine your topic with something else to fill the two-hour time slot that we usually aim for.

We are still looking for input in what our next Academy session should cover. To make it easy for our members to provide such input, we created an online survey. Please go to <http://tiny.cc/RaRaAcademySurvey2022> and fill out the survey. If this short link should not work, you can also use this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfe_RvJyAfc2BidWxePLvK1r_CjQosS1PV0Ua6m2zETiyPa-w/viewform

And we are again looking for a volunteer to organize our RARA Academy sessions. This is a position for which you don't have to be an expert in anything as long as you are **good at organizing things**, and you will get a front row seat for all Academy presentations. If you are interested in joining our education team, please let us know.

RARA ELMERS' CORNER

Suzanne Bishopp, W2SUZ
Rich Bishopp, KD2UBJ
Elmers' Corner Coordinators

"I just got my license, now what?" "I need help troubleshooting a radio I built."
"How do I get this antenna up in a tree?" These are all good questions, and we can help. If you have questions like this, or any other question about ham radio, please join us on Zoom the first Saturday of the month for the Elmers Corner.

At our January meeting we answered some great questions that some of our new members had, and introduced them to some of the great conversations we have on antennas. One of the fun things I learned is that, YES, it is possible to have a QSO with "Santa" in Finland!

If you would like to see a recording of the last meeting, please send me an email and I will hook you up with the link.

If you have any questions that you would like us to be prepared to answer at our next zoom meeting, please email them to us at
elmerscorner@rochesterham.org.

As always, bring your coffee, tea or other favorite morning beverage and join us for our Zoom meeting, the first Saturday of the month at 10am. Can't wait to see you there!

ELMERS' CORNER

1st Saturday of the month
September – May

Next Zoom Meetings:

February 3rd 10AM-12PM

March 2nd

April 6th

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09)

[pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09)

Meeting ID: 834 8467 4667

Passcode: 786545

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,83484674667#,,,,*786545# US (New York)

+13126266799,,83484674667#,,,,*786545# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kiOoVkCMY>

Suzanne – W2SUZ

Rich – KD2UBJ

MORSE CODE TRAINING

Dave Wilson, WA2HOY, RXCWG Coordinator

The RXCW Group assists Hams wanting to learn Morse Code or to develop their CW skills.

BEGINNERS MORSE CODE ZOOM CLASSES

Peter Fournia, W2SKY, hosts Morse Code classes on Thursday evenings 7pm.

No experience required. Join the group at any session. Register at:

pfournia@gmail.com

MORSE PRACTICE FOR ALL LEVELS ON ZOOM AND ON THE AIR

Tim Brown, WB2PAY, hosts Zoom code practice for all levels on the 2nd, 4th, and if there is one, 5th Thursday evening each month at 7:30pm. For On Air schedules contact Tim at:

tjbrown@rochester.rr.com

RXCWG INTERMEDIATE CW PRACTICE- 7:30pm Thursdays

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWWVlORjRlYXlhc3pOUT09)

[pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWWVlORjRlYXlhc3pOUT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWWVlORjRlYXlhc3pOUT09)

Meeting ID: 799 6621 2852

Passcode: tpjz8e

W1AW On The Air CW Practice

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
9 AM		Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
4 PM	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast
7 PM	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
10 PM	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast

SLOW - 5, 7 1/2, 10, 13 and 15 wpm

FAST - 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 wpm

FREQ(MHz) - 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675, 50.350, 147.555

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>

RADIO ELMERS

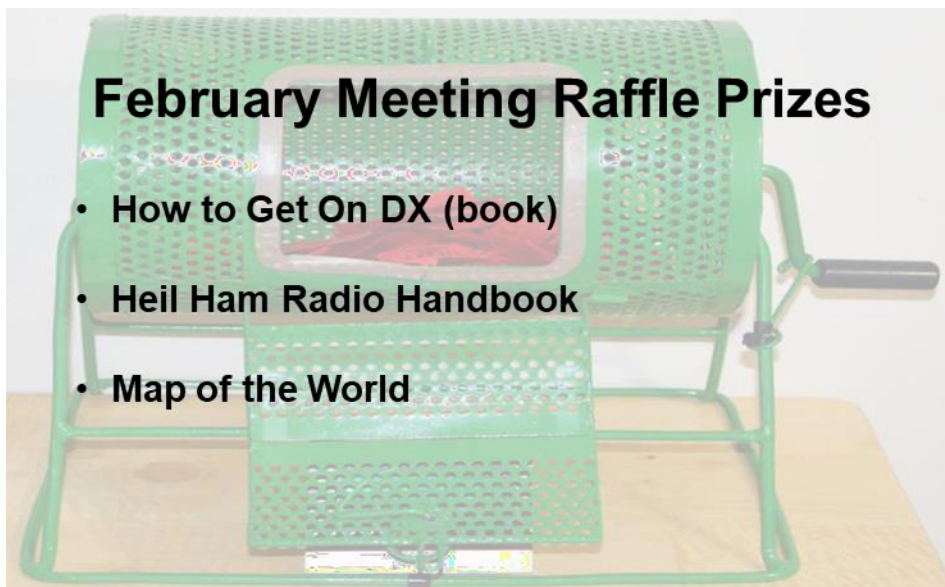
Name	Call	Area	Email
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	tjbrown@rochester.rr.com
Dave Carlson	N2OA	Batavia	kdcarlso@gmail.com
Lawrence Hill	N2AJX	Henrietta	lawrence.hill@rit.edu
Rich Hoffarth	K2AXP		rhoffarth2000@yahoo.com
Bill Kasperkoski	WB2SXY	Pittsford	wb2sxy@gmail.com
Don Kiser	AC2EV	N Greece	dkiser100@gmail.com
Karl Heinz Kremer	K5KHK	Chili	k5khk@khk.net
Tim Magee	WB2KAO	Greece	585-704-5747
Mike Moore	KC2NM		mikemoore@ieee.org
Peter Schuch	WB2UAQ	Perinton	pschuch@rochester.rr.com
Forest Shick	WA2MZG	Webster	fshick3@gmail.com
Dave Timmons	W2DST	N Greece	dstimmons@gmail.com
Steve Verzulli	KA1CNF		verzulli@yahoo.com
Dan Waterstraat	W2DEW	Henrietta	higreen@rochester.rr.com

CW ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Ned Asam	W2NED	Pittsford	w2ned@frontiernet.net
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	tjbrown@rochester.rr.com
Pete Fournia	W2SKY	Penfield	pfournia@gmail.com
Bill Hopkins	AA2YV	Brighton	whopkin4@naz.edu
Bob Karz	K2OID	Webster	rkarz@rochester.rr.com
Joe Rowe	AG2Y	Webster	ag2y@rochester.rr.com
Harry Williams	KF2TV	Kingsland, GA	harryw7872@gmail.com

February Meeting Raffle Prizes

- How to Get On DX (book)
- Heil Ham Radio Handbook
- Map of the World



FEBRUARY 2024 PUBLIC SERVICE

MIKE MOORE, KC2NM, PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR

The Winter months are an excellent time to review our communications tools for public service events. We have a mix of events where our service area extends over a large area and where we operate over a small area. A mobile radio and vehicle-mounted antenna using a single or group of repeaters is most appropriate for the large area event. For small-area events, a handheld radio works well. Our first large area event is the Tour de Cure on June 8, so there is time to add a dual-band mobile radio to your car. If you don't want a permanently mounted setup, a cigar lighter power cord and mag mount antenna for the roof will work. Many hams seem to have a handheld for the small area events.

APRS stations mounted in a vehicle are handy to allow net control to see your location. If that is out of your budget range, there are smartphone Apps for Android (aprsdroid) and iPhone (aprs.fi). These are not the only choices for these devices. For more information, consult the App Store for your phone or view the article at

<https://w8rp.org/how-to-guides/aprs-on-android-and-ios/>

Two of our public service events are scheduled for the same day in September. There are also two events that have been brought forward by club members that are scheduled for the same day as existing events. I have listed these all in our schedule shown following. We will need to plan what the needs are for the served organizations and how we can meet these needs.

2023-2024 RARA Public Service Events

Event	Location	Day	Date
Klondike Ham Event	Williamson Town Park, 3793 Eddy	Saturday Antenna Setup Friday	1/27/2024 (9:00-3:30)
Finger Lakes Tour de Cure	Finger Lakes Community College Canandaigua,	Saturday	June 8, 2024
ADK Outdoor Expo	Mendon Ponds Park	Saturday	June 8, 2024
MS Roc the Ride Great Lakes Ad-	Lakeside Beach State Park	Saturday	August 10, 2024
Mammoth March Upstate NY	Letchwork Park	Saturday	August 10, 2024
ILLW	Charlotte-Genesee Light-	Saturday and Sunday	August 17-18, 2024
Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta	Erie Canal – Fairport, NY	Saturday	Sept 21, 2024
Wilmot Breakaway Ride	UR Central Lab, 211 Bailey Road, West Henrietta	Saturday	Sept 21, 2024
JOTA / Ham Radio Demonstration	Camp Cutler Naples, NY	Saturday	Oct. 19, 2024
Pumpkin Patrol	Overpasses of the New York State	Wednesday and Thursday	Oct. 30-31, 2024

JANUARY MEETING REVIEW

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

It was another good turnout for our monthly meeting with over 30 present in the room plus another 48 attending on-line. We appreciate that for many of you, during the winter months attending the meeting remotely has its attractions!

Our presenter was Jeff Sonstein, WA2RRB and the subject was the relatively new digital mode JS8. Well I just checked and it has been around since 2019 so maybe not so new! JS8 is an extension of FT8 that includes a conversational mode allowing you to do more than just exchange callsign and basic information.

Jeff gave an entertaining talk that was full of practical advice. He also connected to his home network as part of the presentation so that we could see JS8 in operation. After Jeff's presentation, JS8 is definitely something I want to try, thanks Jeff! Thanks as always that those who help set up and run the meeting!



RARA CALENDAR

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

February 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 RARA Monthly Mtg BSA & ONLINE 7pm ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 Walk for the Bacon Contest UKEICC 80m Contest	2 RARA BoD Mtg 6:30pm ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB NRAU 10m Activity Contest NCCC Sprints SKCC Sprints Europe QRP Fox Hunt	3 K1USN Slow Speed Test	4 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9:00p VT, BC, MN QSO Parties 10-10 Int Winter Contest SSB EurAsia HF Championship F9AA Cup, CW EU DX Contest Mexico RTTY Contest NA Sprint, CW FYBO Winter QRP Sprint AGCW Straight Key Party
5 VT, BC QSO Parties 10-10 Int Winter Contest SSB F9AA Cup, CW EU DX Contest Mexico RTTY Contest NA Sprint, CW FYBO Winter QRP Sprint K1USN Slow Speed Test	6 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest ARS Spartan Sprint RSGB 80M Club Contest, SSB	7 RTTYOPS Weeksprint QRP Foxhunt Phone Weekly Test – Fray NAQCC CW Sprint	8 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80	9 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB NCCC Sprints EACW Meeting QRP Foxhunt	10 K1USN Slow Speed Test	11 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9:00p CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest SARL Field Day Asia-Pacific Sprint, CW Dutch PACC Contest SKCC Sprintathon KCJ Topband Contest OMISS QSO Party YLRL YL-OM Contest RSGB Topband Contest
12 SARL Field Day Dutch PACC Contest SKCC Sprintathon KCJ Topband Contest OMISS QSO Party YLRL YL-OM Contest Balkan HF Contest CQC Winter QSO Party	13 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ARRL School Club Roundup ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	14 ARRL School Club Roundup RTTYOPS Weeksprint QRP Foxhunt Phone Weekly Test – Fray NAQCC CW Sprint PODXS 070 Valentine Sprint	15 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p ARRL School Club Roundup A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 Walk for the Bacon Contest RSGB 80M Club Contest, Data	16 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB ARRL School Club Roundup Walk for the Bacon Contest NCCC Sprints EACW Meeting QRP Foxhunt	17 K1USN Slow Speed Test ARRL School Club Roundup	18 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9:00p ARRL Int DX Contest, CW Feld Hell Sprint
19 ARRL Int DX Contest, CW Run for the bacon QRP Contest FISTS Sunday Sprint	20 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	21 SKCC Sprint QRP Foxhunt	22 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 UKEICC 80m Contest	23 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB NCCC Sprints EACW Meeting QRP Foxhunt RSGB 80M Club Contest, CW	24 K1USN Slow Speed Test	25 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9:00p CQ 160M Contest, SSB REF Contest, SSB FTn DX Contest UBA DX Contest, CW NC, SC QSO Parties NA QSO Party, RTTY
26 CQ 160M Contest, SSB REF Contest, SSB FTn DX Contest UBA DX Contest, CW NC, SC QSO Parties NA QSO Party, RTTY High Speed Club CW Contest	27 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB CWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	28 QRP Foxhunt Phone Weekly Test – Fray				

VE TEAM

Testing takes place on the 3rd Saturday September - April

Testing Location

RIT
Rochester Institute of Technology
Building 16 -Schmitt Interfaith Center
43.08402626755475, -77.6734520379509

- Easiest path is from Parking Lot D it can be accessed from West Jefferson Rd via Andrews Memorial Dr or Lowenthal Rd
- From parking lot D walk south up the ramp to the Schmitt Interfaith Center.
- Once inside there is an elevator over to your left or stairs in front of you. Go to the first floor and you will find the Skalny room.

Please Note: this room cannot be accessed from the door under the bridge.

Pre-registration is required visit:

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/14612/inperson> to find the latest session.

More information is available on the RARA website:

https://rochesterham.org/license_testing.htm

Applicants must supply their own pen, pencil, calculator

Testing begins at 10:00AM.

Also Note: The exam is free however the FCC now charges \$35 for applications. This fee is NOT paid to the VE team. It is paid directly to the FCC. You will receive an email from the FCC when your application is processed. We will also have an information sheet available

App Type	Existing Call	Name	OpClass	New Call
Modify	KE2ABZ	Joseph T Abbate III	Extra	KE2ABZ
New		Gavin Abramson	Tech	
New		Mike Burrage	Tech	
New		Jorge A Cajiga	General	
New		Michael J Burrage	Tech	
New		Bruce J Hastings	General	
Modify	KD2YRD	Christopher D McKane	Extra	KD2YRD
Modify	KE2BQJ	Gary Salvione	Extra	KE2BQJ
New		Cameron B Skinner	General	
New		Noah Troy	Tech	
New		Michael Welch	General	

NEWS FROM AREA CLUBS

MONROE COUNTY ARES / RACES News

Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)® is an amateur radio public service organization based in Monroe County, New York, and is open to all licensed amateur radio operators. Monroe County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a program of the Monroe County Office of Emergency Management. We participate in training and emergency exercises so that we can serve other agencies during times of communication failure.



The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month except in July, August, November and December. The meeting in November is on the third Thursday to avoid interfering with Thanksgiving. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend. The meetings are in person at the county EOC at 6:00 PM and are also available via Zoom. Please check our website for any schedule changes. Prospective members can request an invitation by email to: secretary@monroecountyemcomm.org.

Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM, on the W2ARM 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL and 444.45 MHz (+) 110.9 Hz PL repeaters. Our club callsign is WB2EOC. On nights when we hold our regular meeting, the net is at 5:30 PM.

Web: www.monroecountyemcomm.org

Facebook: Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc.

Twitter @MCARESNY

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION, RDXA

Go to RDXA.COM for information



XRX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The XRX Amateur Radio Club meets the second Thursday of the month (except July and August). 7PM at the Webster Recreation Center. Zoom meeting info, when available, is sent out to our mailing list. How to subscribe and up-to-date information is always on our website at <http://xarc.us>. We have a System Fusion repeater south of the city on 145.290, and another on 444.825 west of the city that is also D-Star capable. Both are also analog capable with 110.9Hz tone. All are welcome.

AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, ARAST

ARAST meets the third Thursday of every month at the Emergency Communications Center on Harris Hill in Big Flats, next to the National Soaring Museum. Our Chemung County ARES (CCARES) organization meets the first Tuesday of the month except February at the same location. Both organizations serve amateurs in Chemung, Steuben and Schuyler counties in New York and Bradford and Tioga counties in Pennsylvania. All are welcome to attend our meetings.

NOTE: Both CCARES and ARAST monthly meetings are now being held both in person and online. Check out the Upcoming Events at our website, www.arast.info, for the latest details.

Don't forget to check out our repeaters when you visit the area. N3AQ 147.36(+) and the W2ZJ 146.70(-) are the principal 2-meter repeaters. The latter can also be accessed via Echolink node 574415 with the call sign KD2QND-R. A full list of repeaters that can be heard in the Twin Tiers area surrounding Chemung County can be found at http://www.arast.info/arast_website/public/repeaters.php.

We also invite you to check out our new 6-meter net on Wednesday evenings at 9 p.m. local time on 50.200 MHz USB. The net usually lasts approximately one hour. Operators are encouraged to check in and participate in the round table discussions or simply stop by from time to time. We would welcome participation from RARA members.

COMMUNITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, CARC

If you are interested in being a part of this forward thinking and active club, visit us at a meeting or join us on one of our weekly nets. We meet at the Hoag Library (134 S. Main St. Albion, NY) on the first Saturday of each month at 7PM. Each meeting has a brief training/refresher period with upcoming topics including: net protocol, repeater set-up/maintenance, and digital signaling. The club holds a net every Sunday evening at 8pm (winter) and 9PM (summer) - 0100 UTC Monday - on 147.585 simplex, and we host the Thursday Night Social Net, Thursday at 8:30PM on 147.285+. We'd love to hear you check-in!

DRUMLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Drumlins Amateur Radio Club meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Wayne County EMO/Sheriff's Office 7376 State Hwy 31 #1000, Lyons, NY 14489. Doors open at 7 pm, meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Announcements will be made on the 146.685 repeater. The Drumlins ARC website address is <http://drumlinsarc.us/>

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION OF PERINTON, DCAP

DCAP members continue to experiment with leading edge digital communication modes. We were formed in 1994 to foster the development of local and regional packet radio networks using AX25 and TCP/IP. Today we have members using the club sponsored DSTAR repeater (KB2VZS on 444.8MHz), several personal and publicly accessible DSTAR hotspots, Yaesu System Fusion systems on non-club repeaters and DMR systems through repeaters and personal hotspots. DCAP members meet for breakfast at 7AM nearly every Saturday morning at Riki's Family Restaurant in the village of Fairport and everyone is welcome to join us. Talk in is on the KB2VZS analog repeater on 146.715MHz with a PL tone of 110.9Hz.

KEUKA LAKE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, KLARA

The Solar Eclipse is in April 2024 and we will be setting up a special event station at Helmer Nature Center in Irondequoit, NY. Looking forward to making many contacts! Also our Winter Groundhog Hamfest is February 3, 2024 at Almond Community Center. Contact Belinda Connor KD2BPJ@gmail for information on setting up. It's all indoors and free for everyone.

73
Belinda Connor, KD2BPJ
KLARA Secretary

ORLEANS COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Orleans County ARC meets every 2nd Monday of the month at the Orleans County Emergency Operations Center, 14064 West County House Road, Albion, NY 14411. Doors open at 6:00PM, meeting starts at 7:30PM. Anyone with an interest in amateur radio is welcome. Program topics vary from month to month.

The club has an open two-meter net every Tuesday night at 9:00PM local time on the club repeater, WA2DQL/R (145.27 -600KHz offset, 141.3 tone). Everyone is welcome to check in.

See the club website <http://ocarc.us> or contact club Secretary Ron Craig, N5BNO for more information.

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

You are invited to
join us on-line &
on-the-air! We're
here to help you to
use the license that
you worked so hard to get.



Check out what we do by visiting our
website at <http://RVHFG.org> to start.

Join our e-mail group by sending a message
to RVHFG+subscribe@groups.io.

Join our weekly on-the-air nets on SSB:
2 meter band - Monday 9 PM 144.260 USB
6 meter band - Thursday 9 PM 50.205 USB

No VHF SSB radio (yet) to join the nets?
Log-in to Echolink [ka2ene-L #23426](#)

We can help to answer the question, "What radio should I buy?" Here's a list of HF+++ radios, those with the HF bands and at least three VHF bands, giving you access to all sorts of VHF fun. Research each one to see which serves you best. Ask questions on our email list. We're here to help!

Yaesu FT-100D	Yaesu FT-817	Yaesu FT-818
Yaesu FT-847	Yaesu FT-857	Yaesu FT-897
Icom IC-706MKIIG	Icom IC-7000	Icom IC-7100
Icom IC-9100	Kenwood TS-2000	

Some are older models and some are newer models, but all provide access to the 6 meter, 2 meter, and 70 centimeter bands using both traditional FM and the exciting narrow-band SSB mode that supports unexpectedly long-distance (100's of km's routinely and 1,000's of km occasionally) VHF communication. These are good all-around radios no matter what club you end up affiliating with later. We hope its us.

SKENOH ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, SIARC

The Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7:30PM at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility, 2914 County Road 48, Town of Hopewell. We have License Exam Testing every other month which begins at 6:30PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 14th. There will not be VE testing in February. The February meeting will be a program by a representative from HamSCI and cover many topics, including the upcoming Eclipse. This will be a zoom type presentation.

SIARC is also holding a Health and Welfare NET Monday through Friday each week at 2000 hours on the SIARC 146.820 repeater (located in Canandaigua, NY), Tone 110.9. This net is to pass along general information and keep hams in touch. All hams are invited to participate.

ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION

We were able to call a quorum and hold officer elections at our June meeting. Thanks to those members that attended either in person or via Zoom. The elected club officers are Bob Odell - N2BZX - President, Bob Shewell - N2HJD - Vice President, Jerry Powell - KC2YSY - Treasurer / Membership Chairman, and Jay Stewart - W4JPS - Secretary.

Stay tuned to our web site, WWW.K2RRA.ORG for any current information. RRRA also accepts donations to the club. If you are not currently a member and want to support RRRA, you can join at our monthly meeting or on our web site using PayPal. www.k2rra.org

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

THE RADIO AMATEUR IS:

CONSIDERATE	Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
LOYAL	Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local club, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
PROGRESSIVE	With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.
FRIENDLY	With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
BALANCED	Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
PATRIOTIC	With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.



AWA Educational Institute

2024 Hands-On Classes

Learn It, Build It, Fix It

Vacuum Tube AM Radio101	7 Saturdays Starting 4/6
Vacuum Tube Audio Boot Camp	Sunday-Tuesday 4/7-4/9
Vacuum Tube Guitar Amplifier	7 Saturdays Starting 6/29
Vacuum Tube Radio101 Boot Camp	Sunday-Tuesday 9/29-10/1
Solid State Audio Theory	3 Saturdays Starting 10/12
Test Equipment Familiarization	Saturday 11/9

To get more information visit: www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/learn-build-fix-classes/

AWA SHARES

MICHAEL C. MIGLIACCIO, N3HLM, VICE PRESIDENT, AWA

The monthly *AWA Shares* is about to stage its thirtieth presenter. Thanks to the video on-line streaming of Zoom becoming so popular in the past few years, people are now able to learn more about the historical and technical universe of communications. Presented topics have ranged from accounts of the bygone era of electrically assisted communications to the specific technology details of practical designs. Every third Wednesday of the month Zoom presentations bring you the adventures of early communications pioneers into the privacy and convenience of your home. Audio kits, locating power line noise, NASA communications, early amateur radio pursuits, telegraphy, broadcast history and many other topics delivered to you, in the comfort of your special space where you can sit in your comfy clothes, sip a favorite beverage, enjoying your favorite snack. I encourage you to go to the AWA website and register for the free monthly *AWA Shares* presentations.

Link: <https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/awa-shares/>

DAY	PRESENTER	TITLE
12/20/2023	Felicia Kreuzer	Christmas at the AWA Library
01/17/2024	Mike Murphy	Vintage Law Enforcement Surveillance Radio
02/21/2024	Len Arzoomanian	Rhode Island Made Radios Attachment: Thank you from Retirees ROC

Groundhog Hamfest

Sponsored by W2RMT, N1PTB, KD2BPJ, and The Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association

When: February 3, 2024

Where: Almond Community Building
1 Marvin Lane, Almond, NY 14804

Time: General Public – 8:00 AM
Vendor Setup – 7:00

Cost: \$0 - Free to Vendors and public

Directions:

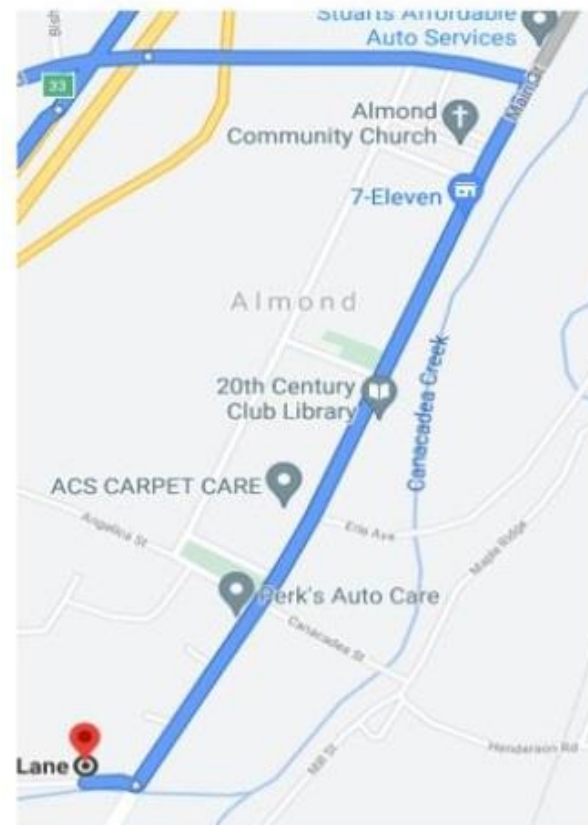
Take Exit 33 off Rout 86.

Follow signs towards Alfred, NY.

Approximately 1 mile from exit on right

Additional information:

- VE Testing @ 10:00. Preregistration requested.
 - Contact Gary Stratton for details (585) 520-5514
- Tables, chairs, and power (outside walls) available at no charge
 - First come first served.
- Coffee for sure and maybe breakfast sandwiches.



RAGS OF THE PAST

ED GABLE, K2MP, RARA HISTORIAN

20 Years Ago, February 2004

This issue of the *Rag* found your program Director Brad Armstrong W1YX, not only introducing the new program in February, but he also recognized the success of last month's gathering that had a larger than anticipated attendance, noting it was held on the day after New Years Day, and further praised the fine effort of Kevin Carey WB2QMY, on his excellent program last month covering longwave radio.

The February meeting will be presented by David Shields, who is with the Rochester Gas and Electric Company and is a Senior Power Line Engineer with over thirty years of experience, speaking on the subject of Quality of Power Distribution Systems. Within that subject David was scheduled to cover fault detection and location techniques, their tooling and discuss how Amateur can aid in such work. David, although admitting he was not up to date on Broadband Over Powerline (BPL) techniques that threatened ham radio operations, but that he would look into it and discuss BPL's current status.

RARA President George Platteter (sk) AA2FO, reported on a recently completed exercise between the Rochester Red Cross and communications experts, aka 'hams' where a three day emergency volunteer call up was initiated and successfully implemented. A system of colors was used to indicate what specific type of volunteer was required, at what location, and when. That request was broadcast over .28/.88 and blue team members responded. It worked well and the Red Cross, our customers, were pleased.

Wearing two hats: RARA Licensing Class Director and also Kodak ARC VE Testing (W5YI VEC) was Ray Pickens (sk) WA2MYG. Ray first gave a short report highlighting the conclusion of the Licensing class ending September 24th. With twenty initial applicants and a few dropouts, the class graduated three new Techs, three Techs with code, and seven upgrades. On the W5YI VE Testing side, that group reduced testing sessions to one session every four months to correspond to demands for service and to coincide with RARA's class completion schedules.

Reprinted in this issue was a long article from the ARRL introducing an all-new entry level Amateur Radio License that would include phone privileges on HF and change all code requirements to 5 WPM for any class. Tryout RARA's new on-line offering of past RARA Rags by simply going to the website and search for the February 2004 Rag. Good reading on the significant time period of License restructuring,

With regret it was reported that Ron Alloco N2HYU was reported a Silent Key. From the Want Ads you could buy an Ameritron AL-811H from a phone number for merely the price of the tubes. A returning Patent Attorney, Howard J. Greenwald AB2HD, advertising help with obtaining a patent for your invention, is a commercial advertiser.



the RARA RAG

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 56 FEBRUARY 2004 NO. 6

DIRECTION-FINDING TECHNIQUES

Brad Armstrong W1YX

Thanks to all those who came out to the January general meeting on the day after New Year's Day! I was pleased to see such fine attendance on a holiday weekend. Kevin Carey's presentation on longwave was especially interesting. I learned quite a bit about a portion of the spectrum I knew little about, and I heard from many others that they did as well.

We are in for a real treat at February's meeting, as the presenter will be David Shields of Rochester Gas & Electric. He has offered to speak on a variety of subjects related to the quality of power distribution systems.

He will educate us on how the company uses direction-finding techniques to locate faults in their equipment and will be talking about some of the tools used to track down and confirm these issues including ultrasound, infrared,



and their brand new corona (ultra-violet) camera. He expects to be able to bring along the ultrasound and corona equipment to show us up close - the IR equipment is attached to a truck, so that would be a bit difficult to carry into the meeting hall. David also will tell us what to look for as far as power quality issues in our homes. He will be teaching us the proper way to set up surge suppression and UPS systems and how to deal with RFI issues as well.

One other note here: I did ask if he was familiar with Broadband over Power Line and the issues surrounding it. This subject is of great importance to the amateur community at this time, so I knew that it would certainly be brought up at the meeting. He said that he was not familiar with BPL yet, but that he would see what research he could do to be up on this technology for the meeting. David has expressed a strong interest in building a better working relationship between hams in our community and RG&E. This is a great opportunity for us to join him in this effort. He also told me that he enjoys talking tech, so bring your thinking caps to this one, gentleman!

In his 30 years with RG&E David has worked as a Relay Engineer, a Transmission and Distribution Planning Engineer,  and in his current position as Senior Power Line Quality Engineer. He holds an EE from the University of Rochester has taught Electric Utility Engineering there as well as teaching Protective Relaying to the power dispatchers at the New York Power Pool. He is a member of IEEE and obtained an IEEE Region 1 Award for Technical Applications in Electric Power Quality Analysis in 1992.

CONTINUED PAGE 5

RARA RAG 1

RaRa
MEETING
February 6, 2004
8:00 PM
HENRIETTA FIRE HALL
3129 E. HENRIETTA RD.
DIRECTION-FINDING
TECHNIQUES
Presented by
David Shields of RG&E

RAGS OF THE PAST

ED GABLE, K2MP, RARA HISTORIAN

40 Years Ago, February 1984

This *Rags of the Past* column typically begins by informing readers of the topic and who the presenter would be at the next meeting. We alter that format this month as when at press time there were no firm plans for the next meeting. So, on to the month's happenings.

A popular annual RARA sponsored event is the Valentine Dinner Party, this year held on February 11th at the Holiday Inn – Airport location. This gala evening consisted of a dinner selection of Roast Top Sirloin, Filet of Sole or Chicken Normandy. After dinner entertainment featured Jerry Arget-singer's Magic Acts. RARA President Bill Thiel K2KGE, in his *President's Corner* column offered his personal invitation to the bargain priced \$15.00, event.

The FCC just announced, much to everyone's surprise, a major change to Amateur Radio Licensing term periods. Previously most all licenses were issued for a five-year period. Now, a benefit of recent computer upgrades at the Commission, the standard term is for ten years. Amateurs need to do nothing except follow renewal or upgrade requirements of their current license. Newly issued licenses will show the new ten-year term.

Ed Holdsworth (sk) N2EH, RARA Licensing Course Director, reported the new classes would begin in February, on Monday nights, at 111 Westfall Road, for Novice and Tech/General classes. Cost of Registration, books and RARA Associate membership totaled \$14.00.

Ron Jakobowski K2RJ, Technical Director for the Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA), wrote to inform the local ham community on the status of the *Fuzz-Buzz* system. Ron reported that unexpected Radio Central technical requirements delayed the end game but that things are fully understood and back on schedule. For unaware readers, the *Fuzz-Buzz* system, designed and built by RRRA, allows users of the .28/.88 repeater to touch-tone in a secret user code that connects the amateur operator directly to the 9-1-1 operator who will process in real time calls for help to police and fire. It was a good system that worked well but fell into disuse with the influence of Cell Phones.

On the old buried news side, we found printed a reminder of an unusual service by RARA and the Rochester Rundell Library. Need an address for QSL'ing? Just call the library and an attendant will look up in the latest Callbook the mailing address for that callsign. Worked well, but the Internet made the need obsolete.

With regret it was reported that Theodore Kimmerly K2SQH and Carlton Bonyton WA2IJC, were reported as Silent keys. From the Want Ads you could buy a Swan 350 transceiver and power supply from Dave KA2RDP, for \$175.00. Robinson Rochester Cycles, featuring Triumph, BSA and other fine motorcycles, at 900 West Main, city, was an often-seen commercial advertiser.



the RARA RAG

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

Rochester, N.Y. FEBRUARY 1984 Volume 36 No. 6

COME TO THE VALENTINE DINNER PARTY!

The February RaRa meeting will be your last chance to purchase Valentine Dinner Party tickets. This annual event is Saturday night, February 11 at the Holiday Inn - Airport.

Three choices are featured on the menu: Roast Top Sirloin, Broiled Fillet of Sole, or Baked Breast of Chicken Normandy.

Entertainment will be provided by Jerry Arget-singer. You may have seen his magic act at the Marriott during the Hamfest several years ago.

Tickets are only \$15 each, so come and join your friends in an evening of good company, good food and much merriment! We need your support to make this event a success.

February 11 is the second Saturday, and the Holiday Inn Airport is located at 911 Brooks Avenue at I-390. Contact any officer or board member for tickets.

RoRa MEETS FEBRUARY 3rd

The February meeting of RaRa will take place at the 40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue., 8 p.m. on February 3rd.

According to Vice President Ray Roberts, WA2SSU, the program hasn't been firmed up yet, but it will either be a slide show recounting how Thanksgiving is celebrated in Mendon, or a "X" rated movie entitled "DXing on Your Honey-moon."

All this plus our fabulous refreshments, thanks to George Muller, WA2IEO, and an awards presentation by Don Drennan, W2EBF, should make this a memorable meeting no matter what happens.

An extra added attraction this month will be the sign-up sheets for all the public service projects we have scheduled to date. Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, will be passing out pencils so that everyone will have the opportunity to sign-up. So don't miss this one!

TEN YEAR HAM LICENSES ISSUED

The Commission has commenced issuing new, modified and renewal amateur radio station licenses for ten year terms. The longer-term licenses were authorized in rule amendments adopted by the Commission on October 6, 1983.

Before the rules were changed, an amateur license was issued for a five year period. Issuance of ten year licenses was delayed so that necessary changes could be made in licensing (computer) programs. (PR Docket 83-337)

There will be a two year grace period for both expired ten year station and operator licenses. Previously there was a one year grace period for station licenses and for an amateur operator license, five years.

The Commission emphasizes that the ten year license term is not a blanket extension of existing station and operation licenses. An amateur license that specifies less than a ten year term will show a ten year term on the face of the license when it is either modified or renewed.

COMPUTERS TOPIC AT JCC-ARC MEETING

by Dave Rubin, N3CKN

The JCC Amateur Radio Club will meet on Sunday, February 26th, at 2 p.m. The featured speaker will be Ron Jakobowski, K2RJ, who will speak on *Applications of Computers in Amateur Radio*.

Everyone is invited to attend, both members and non-members. The meeting will be held at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Rochester, 1200 Edgewood Avenue.

SILENTS KEYS

K2SQH, Theodore E. Kimmerly
WA2IJC, Carlton P. Bonyton

RARA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

OFFICERS

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West Side Amateur Radio Club

XRX Amateur Radio Club

Brian Donovan, K2AS: k2as@outlook.com

Rochester Makerspace

David Duckles: rocmakers@gmail.com

MARCH RAG DEADLINE

FEBRUARY 15, 2024

**RARA MEETS AT 7PM ON THE FIRST
WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

JOIN US IN PERSON

OR

ONLINE AT:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5293521103168925269>

CONTACT WEBMASTER@ROCHESTERHAM.ORG FOR SUPPORT

Rochester Area Repeater Listing

THE RARA RAG

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